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Copy No. 1

13 April 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of CIA Subcommittees of Senate Armed Services and Senate Appropriations - 9 April 1965

1. The Director, accompanied by Messrs. Cline, [redacted] and Warner, met with Senators Stennis, Saltonstall, Hayden, and Young to discuss South Vietnam. Mr. William Darden was present. No transcript was taken. 25X1

2. Just prior to the meeting, I delivered to Mr. Darden a short statement which had been approved by the Director for delivery to Senator Stennis dealing with the Communist subversion under the umbrella of the nuclear stalemate. (Copy attached)

3. Mr. Cline did the briefing generally following the attached prepared paper. He covered most of the points included in this paper. The Director exhibited a picture of the SA-2 site under construction near Hanoi. He pointed out that this was a most significant development. The Director also commented on [redacted] concerning Russian volunteers for duty in North Vietnam to man these surface-to-air missiles was also extremely significant. 25X1

4. The Director then discussed the raid of U. S. aircraft this morning involving some 96 aircraft. It was pointed out that four Navy A-4s were patrolling over the Gulf of Tonkin when four MIG-17 aircraft on patrol from Hanoi encountered them. He stated that one of the MIG-17s

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was shot down and later one of the Navy aircraft was lost but the pilot was recovered. The Director pointed out that this was the first clash of U. S. and ChiCom aircraft since Korea. He also pointed out that instructions to the ChiCom pilots from ground control had ordered them to be careful and not fire unless ordered.

5. On South Vietnam, the Director pointed out there had been no change since the last briefing, that if anything there had been a hardening of the North Vietnamese attitude. In addition, they were beginning to build defenses to make more costly the American raids.

6. The Director pointed out that he was somewhat disturbed over the lack of photographic coverage over South China during the last two to three weeks. He pointed out that the U-2s and Drones had not been flying, there had been an attack on a U-2 several weeks ago, and it appeared the ChiComs had learned how to cope with the Drone since they had shot down two in two days. However, it was stated there would be overflight coverage in the next few days.

7. Senator Young inquired as to what we could expect to develop in South Vietnam. The Director indicated four phases: a. fighting on the ground; b. send in units covertly; c. send in units openly; d. open ChiCom intervention. It was pointed out that the majority view in the intelligence community was that the ChiComs would not risk open intervention. Mr. McCone stated it was his personal view that if the intensity of the raids began to threaten the fabric of the North Vietnamese society they probably would want to negotiate and tamp down their activities, awaiting a better day. He indicated there are others who believe the North Vietnamese will simply go on fighting. He stated it was his view that the U. S. would have to go much farther and take higher risks before the raids would get any results. He further stated his view that he would urge more aggressive attacks.

8. The meeting closed after about 45 minutes of discussion.

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JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Attachments

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